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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Communist and Nationalist Order of Battle and
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1. There are 22 military aircraft (8 fighters, 3 bombers and 11 transports) with Communist crews in Canton. It is rumored that the aircraft will be used as cover for Communist invasions of Hainan and Taiwan*. The planes, which are at White Cloud Airfield, are camouflaged against air attack and no damage from Nationalist air raids has been reported.
2. Because of daily Nationalist air raids the Canton Military Control Com- mission has ordered all naval craft to Shihchi (113-22, 22-30) where they are well-camouflaged from air attack.
3. Admiral CH'EN Shao-k'uan (陳紹寬), former head of the Nationalist navy, accepted a position as naval adviser to the East China Military Control Com- mission, Foochow, and, with retired Nationalist Admiral SA Chen-ping (薩鎮冰), is assisting the Communist on Taiwan invasion plans.
4. The Nationalists are using La Ch'a Mei (拉拔妹) Island, 40 miles southwest of Hong Kong, as a naval base for ships blockading the Pearl River Delta and Hong Kong-Macao waters, and for mining the Pearl River Estuary.
5. Nationalist General CH'EN Chi-t'ang's administrative officer remains in Haikou**.
6. Nationalist daily air and naval bombardment of the Leichow Peninsula is causing sufficient damage to Communist shipping to delay an immediate in- vasion of Hainan. Communist Generals LIN Piao and CHEN Keng are on the peninsula awaiting the signal for an all-out Hainan offensive. Communist Generals LIU Po-cheng and CHEN Yi are massing forces along the Fukien coast for the invasion of Taiwan***.

 Comment. indicates that the fighters are P-51's, the bombers B-25's and the transports C-46's and C-47's.

 Comment. This appears to contradict press reports that a split between CH'EN and HSUEH Yueh forced CH'EN's headquarters to be moved to Yulin.

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***  Comment.  press figures of 1,000,000 Communist troops against Taiwan and 150,000 against Hainan should be reduced by a fourth to a half.